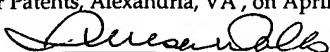


O I P E
APR 30 2004

PATENT
Docket No. IL-10413

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, on April 30, 2004.


Teresa Walls

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

HRUBESH et al.

Serial No.: US 10/050,437

Filing Date: 1/15/02

For: LIGHTWEIGHT, HIGH STRENGTH
CARBON AEROGEL COMPOSITES
AND METHOD OF FABRICATION

Examiner: P. Lish

Group Art Unit: 1754

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is a preliminary amendment in a RCE Application. It comprises a response to the Office Action mailed January 21, 2004 in the parent application. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: